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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 19 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith the text of a letter dated 18 June 1998 from Mr. Glafcos Clerides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, addressed to you.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-17459 (E) 190698

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ANNEX

Letter dated 18 June 1998 from the President of Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing you this letter in order to ask you to undertake a personal initiative along the lines of paragraphs 6 and 7 of Security Council resolution 1146 (1997) of 23 December 1997, which encourages the Secretary-General to continue to promote efforts to achieve progress in reducing military tensions.

Since December 1993, when I wrote to your predecessor outlining a detailed proposal for the total demilitarization of Cyprus, I have continuously called for a substantive discussion with the Turkish side along these lines. Last August, during the meetings held with Mr. Denktash in Glion, Switzerland, in the presence of your Special Adviser, Mr. Diego Cordovez, I submitted a non-paper (see attachment) on reducing tensions in the military field by proposing that the two sides engage in serious dialogue on resolving security matters of concern to all sides.

The Security Council, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 1146 (1997), called upon all concerned to commit themselves to a reduction in defence spending and a reduction in the number of foreign troops in the Republic of Cyprus to help restore confidence between the parties and as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces as described in the set of ideas (S/24472, annex), and stressed the importance of eventual demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus as an objective in the context of an overall comprehensive settlement. This I believe offers a sufficient framework for a comprehensive discussion aimed at a package agreement on all fundamental aspects of the security situation in Cyprus, of both a short-term and a long-term nature. As you are aware, last year your Deputy Special Representative in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel, convened two meetings between Mr. Denktash and myself with an open agenda but without, unfortunately, this effort yielding any result.

The reciprocal measures for reducing tension along the ceasefire line proposed by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, as well as the idea put forward by the Canadian Foreign Minister while visiting Cyprus last week for an initiative on demining of the buffer zone, would constitute a component of these discussions with immediate application.

Consequently I would like to repeat, at this point, my commitment to reconsider the issue of non-importation of new weapons systems to Cyprus provided that progress is made on a schedule which includes a number of measures and steps leading towards the eventual goal of demilitarization.

On the basis of the aforementioned Security Council resolution, I believe that the members of the Council will lend all possible support to such an undertaking. I therefore once again urge you to consider how implementation of this part of resolution 1146 (1997), also present in previous recent resolutions, may be achieved.

(Signed) Glafcos CLERIDES
President of the Republic of Cyprus

ATTACHMENT

The two leaders jointly declare the following:

(a) They denounce the use of force as a means of solving the Cyprus problem. A solemn public declaration will be made to that effect.

(b) They have agreed to work for a specific programme of reduction of foreign and local forces and equipment as a preparatory step towards the final withdrawal of all forces and elements and demilitarization as provided for by the relevant United Nations resolutions.

(c) They have agreed to negotiate a limitation of importation onto the island of military weapons and equipment, which will be implemented under United Nations supervision.

(d) They have agreed to negotiate the unmanning of military postings in close proximity, the unloading of weapons along the ceasefire lines and the adoption of a code of conduct as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

(e) Negotiations in respect of the above will take place in Cyprus in the presence of the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative. These negotiations are to begin and be completed without delay.

(f) The two leaders have also agreed on the necessity to make arrangements of a humanitarian nature for the benefit of members of both communities and consider measures which will lead to a better understanding between the two communities.

(g) To negotiate in a spirit of good will for an urgent solution of the Cyprus problem based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations resolutions and decisions on Cyprus and the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979, as well as respect for democratic principles and the fundamental human rights.

12 August 1997